REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1 and 7 are independent.

At paragraph 2, the Office Action objected to the specification for containing an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. The Office Action required that the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code be deleted. The Office Action states that "Links to websites are not generally allowed in patent specifications because the contents of websites are modified and updated at any time, as opposed to printed publications, which do not change."

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. MPEP § 608.01 (in particular, page 600-62) makes clear that the reason hyperlinks and other forms of browser-executable code are not allowed in a patent application is that when the patent document is placed on the USPTO web page, the URL is interpreted by a web browser as a valid HTML code and it becomes a live web link, which could be a commercial web site in violation of USPTO policy.

Since the Internet address in the specification is no longer browser-executable, the objection is not proper, and Applicants respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

At paragraph 3, the Office Action states that the Information Disclosure Statement citing German Patent DE 35 18 301 A1, fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for not including a concise explanation of the relevance of that German patent.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect on this point. In the previous Amendment, filed on November 19, 2004, Applicants pointed out to the

Examiner that the requirement of providing a concise explanation of relevance of German Patent DE 35 18 301 A1 was satisfied by the English-language version of the French Search Report submitted with the mentioned Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Examiner now states that the French Search Report is written in French rather than English. The Examiner is, respectfully, incorrect, insofar as he does not acknowledge that (1) an English-language version of the French Search Report was submitted with that Information Disclosure Statement, as was pointed out to the Examiner in the previous Amendment[1], and (2) the English-language version of the French Search Report satisfies the requirement of providing a concise explanation of the relevance of the German patent in question. Nevertheless, as a courtesy to the Examiner, Applicant is hereby re-submitting the English-language version of the French Search Report. Applicants again respectfully request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted with that Information Disclosure Statement, indicating German Patent DE 35 18 301 A1 cited thereon has been considered.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,638,498 to Tyler et al.

The present invention relates generally to progressive decoding of digital data coded with at least one region of interest. Recent methods for compressing images make it possible to code an image in a progressive way in terms of quality. The decoding of the image can also be progressive, and it is possible to display a part of the image, or a low-quality version thereof, before the entire image has been decoded. Moreover, it is possible to define a region of interest in the image, the region of interest being composed of

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[1]/Indeed, the mentioned Information Disclosure Statement states: "The requirement for a concise explanation of relevance of the non-English document is satisfied by the English-language version of the France Search report submitted herewith. MPEP 609."

one or more parts of the image. The region of interest is typically defined by a user and
will typically be coded with a higher quality compared to the rest of the image.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for alerting during the progressive decoding
of a digital image coded with a region of interest. The method includes detecting an end of
decoding of the region of interest, and activating an indication of the end of decoding of the
region of interest by displaying an indicator in an indicator-display area at a predetermined
position on a screen.

Notably, an indication of the end of decoding of a region of interest is
performed by displaying an indicator in an indicator-display area at a predetermined
position on a screen. (See, for example, page 9, lines 13-15, and page 10, lines 3-6, of the
present specification.)[2]

Tyler et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to reducing storage
requirements for display data. Fig. 13, cited in the Office Action, is a flow diagram
illustrating step 46 of Fig. 3, in which compressed data is decompressed based upon the
assigned compression algorithms and the decompressed data is displayed. In step 310 of
Fig. 13, the process checks, when the pointer is at the end of the scan line, if any region(s)
have been completely decompressed and displayed ("completed"). This can be checked,
for example, by determining whether any end-of-region information has been retrieved
from the decompression buffer. If one or more regions have been completed, then, in step
312, a number of new region descriptors equal to the amount of completed regions are
retrieved from the compressed band buffer and stored in the decompression buffer. By
continuing with the process, new region descriptors are eventually added in from each

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[2]/It is of course to be understood that the references to various portions of the present
application are by way of illustration and example only, and that the claims are not limited
by the details shown in the portions referred to.

successive band of data on the page (e.g., each band's region descriptors can be linked to the next band's region descriptors to effectively provide an entire page's worth of descriptors). (See column 32, lines 3-17, of Tyler et al.)

If no regions have been completed in step 310, or after new compressed region descriptors have been loaded in step 312, then the process checks if the scan line pointer is at the end of the page. If not, the process returns to step 296, where the regions crossed by the next scan line (e.g., the scan line right under the previous scan line) are determined. If the scan line pointer is at the end of the page, the process is complete at step 314. The next page can then be decompressed and displayed, if desired, by returning to the start of the process at 290. (See column 32, lines 32-41, of Tyler et al.)

Applicants have found nothing in Tyler et al. that would teach or suggest the use of an indicator which would be displayed at the end of decoding. At page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner states:

> Applicant asserts that Tyler does not provide an indication to a user, however, neither claim 1 nor claim 7 requires an indication to be provided to a user. Nonetheless, block 310 detects whether a region has been decoded and displayed, so an alternative interpretation of Tyler is that after block 310 detects that YES, completion of decoding of a region has occurred, the region of interest has been decoded and displayed to a user. Thus, after detecting completion at block 310, the entire region has been decoded and visually displayed to a user, thereby indicating that completion of that region has occurred.

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's reading of Tyler et al., since "activating an indication of the end of decoding of the region of interest" (as recited in Claim 1) is not the same as displaying a region, *even if* the Examiner's reading of that patent were to be accepted, it cannot be said that Tyler et al. teaches or suggests the use of

an indicator which would be displayed at the end of decoding. Displaying a region of a decoded image, which the Examiner refers to above, cannot be regarded as displaying an indicator, which is a specific sign and therefore distinct from the decoded image itself.

Nothing in Tyler et al. would teach or suggest activating an indication of the end of decoding of a region of interest by displaying an indicator in an indicator-display area at a predetermined position on a screen, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over Tyler et al.

Independent Claim 7 is a device claim corresponding to method Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from Claim 1 or 7 discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.
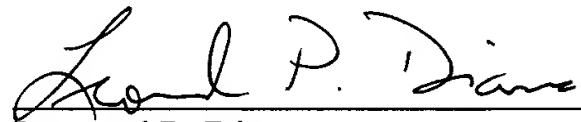
This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested

that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)

	Date of completion of the search	Examiner

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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date

EPO FORM P0459